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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rates Down, Jobs Up in Every Metro Area Compared to May 2020

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	May 2021*	May 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	4.2%	11.5%	-7.3
Carbondale-Marion	5.1%	16.1%	-11.0
Champaign-Urbana	4.3%	10.4%	-6.1
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	7.9%	15.8%	-7.9
Danville	5.8%	14.8%	-9.0
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.0%	14.0%	-9.0
Decatur	6.9%	15.2%	-8.3
Elgin	5.3%	15.6%	-10.3
Kankakee	5.8%	14.3%	-8.5
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.6%	13.3%	-8.7
Peoria	5.5%	15.4%	-9.9
Rockford	8.4%	20.3%	-11.9
Springfield	5.0%	14.1%	-9.1
St. Louis (IL-Section)	4.6%	14.0%	-9.4
Illinois Statewide	6.7%	15.3%	-8.6
* Preliminary ** Revised			

SPRINGFIELD – The number of nonfarm jobs increased over-the-year in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas in May according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). The unemployment rate decreased over-the-year in all metro areas.

“With reopening activities in full swing throughout the state, today’s numbers indicate Illinois is recovering from the hardest hit months of the pandemic a year ago,” said **Deputy Governor Dan Hynes**. “While IDES continues to support claimants and administer federal unemployment programs, the Department is committed to assisting individuals to reenter the workforce and matching employers with job-seekers.”

The number of nonfarm jobs increased in all fourteen Illinois metropolitan areas. The metro areas which had the largest over-the-year percentage increases in total nonfarm jobs were the Springfield MSA (+9.0%, +8,500), the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (+8.3%, +13,600), and the Champaign-Urbana MSA (+7.8%, +8,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago Metro Division rose by +7.3%, +241,400.

The industries that saw job growth in a majority of metro areas

included: Retail Trade and Leisure & Hospitality (fourteen areas each); Other Services and Government (twelve areas each); Mining and Construction (eleven areas); Manufacturing, Transportation, Warehousing and Public Utilities and Education & Health Services (ten areas each); and Wholesale Trade and Professional & Business Service (nine areas each).

Over-the-year, the unemployment rate decreased in all 14 metropolitan areas; the areas with the largest unemployment rate decreases were the Rockford MSA (-11.9 points to 8.4%), the Carbondale-Marion MSA (-11.0 points to 5.1%) and the Elgin Metropolitan Division (-10.3 points to 5.3%). The Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metropolitan Division unemployment rate fell -7.9 points to 7.9%. The unemployment rate also decreased over-the-year in all 102 counties.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – May 2021

Metropolitan Area	May 2021*	May 2020**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	87,300	82,900	4,400
Carbondale-Marion MSA	54,300	51,100	3,200
Champaign-Urbana MSA	115,600	107,200	8,400
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,537,300	3,295,900	241,400
Danville MSA	26,500	24,900	1,600
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	178,000	164,400	13,600
Decatur MSA	47,800	45,000	2,800
Elgin Metro Division	242,100	225,500	16,600
Kankakee MSA	42,500	41,500	1,000
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	402,700	374,800	27,900
Peoria MSA	162,500	151,500	11,000
Rockford MSA	135,200	129,200	6,000
Springfield MSA	103,400	94,900	8,500
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	232,000	216,300	15,700
Illinois Statewide	5,760,300	5,362,600	397,700
*Preliminary **Revised			

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

Labor Market Area	May 2021	May 2020	Over the Year Change
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metro Division			
Cook County	8.7 %	16.8 %	-8.1
DuPage County	5.5 %	12.8 %	-7.3
Grundey County	6.0 %	13.8 %	-7.8
Kendall County	5.6 %	13.8 %	-8.2
McHenry County	5.5 %	13.3 %	-7.8
Will County	6.9 %	15.0 %	-8.1
Elgin, IL Metro Division			
DeKalb County	5.2 %	14.0 %	-8.8
Kane County	5.3 %	16.0 %	-10.7
Lake & Kenosha, IL-WI Metro Division			
Lake County (IL)	4.7 %	13.6 %	-8.9
Kankakee, IL MSA			
Kankakee County	5.8 %	14.3 %	-8.5
Cities			
Aurora City	5.7 %	15.0 %	-9.3
Chicago City	9.3 %	17.7 %	-8.4
Elgin City	6.9 %	17.2 %	-10.3
Joliet City	8.5 %	17.2 %	-8.7
Kankakee City	8.7 %	16.7 %	-8.0
Naperville City	4.7 %	10.9 %	-6.2

* Unemployment rates for cities with total population of 25,000 or more can be found at https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/lmi/Pages/Local_Area_Unemployment_Statistics.aspx

Kankakee, IL MSA

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.8 percent in May 2021 from 14.3 percent in May 2020. The last time the May rate was equal to or lower was in 2019 when it was 3.9 percent.

Total nonfarm employment increased +1,000 compared to May 2020. The Educational-Health Services (-900) sector recorded the largest employment decline compared to one year ago. The Leisure-Hospitality (+900), Professional-Business Services (+300), Manufacturing (+200), Wholesale Trade (+200), and Government (+200) had the largest payroll gains over the year.

Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights, IL Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 7.9 percent in May 2021 from 15.8 percent in May 2020. The last time the May rate was equal to or lower was in 2019 when it was 3.5 percent.

Total nonfarm employment increased +241,400 compared to May 2020. The Information (-2,200) and Manufacturing (-1,400) sectors recorded employment declines compared to one year ago. Leisure-Hospitality (+74,700), Retail Trade (+43,100), Professional-Business Services (+37,200), and Educational-Health Services (+30,700) had the largest payroll gains over the year.

Elgin, IL Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.3 percent in May 2021 from 15.6 percent in May 2020. The last time the May rate was equal to or lower was in 2019 when it was 3.4 percent.

Total nonfarm employment increased +16,600 compared to May 2020. The Professional-Business Services (-1,100) sector recorded employment declines compared to one year ago. Leisure-Hospitality (+6,900), Retail Trade (+4,600), Educational-Health Services (+2,200), Other Services (+1,500), and Government (+1,300) had the largest payroll gains over the year.

Lake & Kenosha Counties, IL-WI Metro Division

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.6 percent in May 2021 from 13.3 percent in May 2020. The last time the May rate was equal to or lower was in 2019 when it was 3.3 percent.

Total nonfarm employment increased +27,900 compared to May 2020. Leisure-Hospitality (+11,700), Retail Trade (+3,800), Government (+2,300), Transportation-Warehousing-Utilities (+2,100), Manufacturing (+2,000), and Other Services (+2,000) had the largest payroll gains over the year.

Note: Monthly 2020 unemployment rates and total nonfarm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2021, as required by the U.S. BLS. Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid. The official monthly unemployment rate series for metro areas, counties and most cities begins in 1990. The official monthly nonfarm jobs series for metro areas begins in 1990 and for non-metropolitan counties it begins in 1999.

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